## Message Text

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**ACTION OES-05** 

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSF-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 EA-10 FRB-01

INR-07 IO-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 OIC-02 USIE-00 PRS-01

PA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 FEAE-00 OFA-01 DLOS-05 INT-05

STR-04 CEQ-01 EPA-04 /132 W

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O 271618Z MAY 75 FM USMISSION OECD PARIS TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 7249

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 13452

PASS: NSF FOR G P JOHNSON, OES FOR GRANT, HEMILY

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: TPHY, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD/CST - MEETING OF ADVISORY GROUP ON CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY (TECHNOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT - TA) JUNE 2-3, 1975. COMMENTS ON AGENDA.

REF: (A) USOECD 13048, (B) USOECD 12156, (C) USOECD 11556.

- 1. SUMMARY. USOECD WILL COVER MEETING AS REQUESTED IN EVENT OF JOHNSON NSF UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE. IN ADDITION TO GENERAL GUIDANCE RE US PRIORITIES AND PREFERRED ORIENTATION, MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES ARISING FROM CONSIDERATION OF MEETING AGENDA, RECEIVED TODAY. END SUMMARY.
- 2. AGENDA ITEMS 1 AND 2 ARE PROGRESS REPORTS FIRSTLY UNCLASSIFIED

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ON THE GENERAL PROGRAM, SECONDLY ON THE THREE AREAS

SELECTED BY THE ADVISORY GROUP. ITEM 3 IS AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG NATIONAL RESEARCH TEAMS. THESE THREE ITEMS TAKEN TOGETHER CALL FOR US COMMENTS ON PROGRESS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO WHAT SEEMS TO BE A NEED FOR MUCH CLOSER INITIAL COORDINATION WITH OECD COMMITTEES AND SECRETARIATS INVOLVED IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE AREAS CHOSEN, WHICH WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED.

- 3. ITEM 4 IS A REQUEST FOR SHORT STATEMENTS BY PARTICIPANTS ON TA IN THEIR COUNTRIES, IE., PRESENT THINKING, DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTIONS TO CARRY OUT TA STUDIES, USE OF TA BY GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT BODIES, AND SO ON. SHORT, PREPARED STATEMENTS THAT COULD BE EVENTUALLY INCORPORATED INTO A SECRETARIAT BACKGROUND PAPER WOULD BE MOST USEFUL.
- 4. UNDER ITEM 5 COMES THE DISCUSSION OF A SEMINAR FOR HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS AND DECISION MAKERS TO EXAMINE POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS OF TA. THE SECRETARIAT HAS SELF-DETERMINED THAT SUCH A SEMINAR IS REQUIRED AT THE TIME OF THE FINAL REPORT, AND IS ASKING IF THERE SHOULD BE ONE OVERALL MEETING OR ONE FOR EACH AREA. THE MISSION FEELS THAT BOTH OPTIONS ARE SOMEWHAT PREMATURE AND PERHAPS OVER-AMBITIOUS TO PLAN "HIGH-LEVEL" MEETINGS OF THIS NATURE BEFORE MEMBER-COUNTRIES HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO JUDGE THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF THE OUTPUT. UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT ADVISES TO THE CONTRARY, WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO HAVE THIS ISSUE POSTPONED UNTIL MORE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE THREE SELECTED AREAS. AND UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN AT LEAST AN APPROACH TO A METHODOLOGY LIKELY TO BE OF INTEREST TO MEMBER-COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS.
- 5. ITEM 6 CALLS FOR AN EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN TWO FURTHER AREAS, CONSIDERED OF HIGH INTEREST AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE ADVISORY GROUP (A) TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES, (B) SOLAR ENERGY. MISSION NOTES THAT, APART FROM QUESTIONS OF COORDINATION WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE OECD, IEA AND UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS LAW OF THE SEA, THERE IS A SERIOUS QUESTION OF SECRETARIAT RESOURCES BEING ADEQUATE TO MANAGE EVEN THE THREE AREAS NOW PROPOSED. UNLESS EITHER MEMBER-COUNTRIES ARE PREPARED TO SHOULDER VIRTUALLY ALL THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, OR THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE BUDGET FOR TA WORK, THE NEW PROJECTS ARE UNLIKELY TO GET OFF THE GROUND BEFORE 1977 AT THE EARLIEST. PLEASE ADVISE ON US POSITION

THIS POINT.

6. ITEMS 7-9 WILL BE DEVOTED TO DISCUSSING THE FUTURE ORIENTATION OF THE PROGRAMS UNDER THREE HEADS. (A) INDICATORS OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE FOR RESEARCH INTO "ALTERNATIVE FUTURES AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLANNING", (B) RESEARCH ON ALTERNATIVE FUTURES - THE "PROSPECTIVE FUNCTION", WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE ROLE OF THE OECD IN THIS FIELD, (C)

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THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING IN TECHNOLOGY, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE. IN EACH CASE, THE SECRETARIAT PLAN INVOLVES EXTENSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, LITERATURE ANALYSIS, SAMPLE SURVEYS, AND MEETINGS. THE SECRETARIAT'S BACKGROUND NOTES TO THESE ITEMS ARE SKETCHY AND ONCE AGAIN THE PROPOSED "METHOD OF INVESTIGATION" RAISES SERIOUS QUESTIONS OF THE ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT ONE OF THE TWO

PRINCIPAL STAFF MEMBERS FOR THE TA PROJECTS HAS BEEN, AND WILL BE FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE, ASSIGNED AS IEA R & D SECRETARIAT.

7. TO SUMMARIZE THE ABOVE COMMENTS: MISSION FEELS THAT OECD TA PROGRAM IS POTENTIALLY OF HIGH VALUE TO MEMBER-COUNTRIES, BUT IS CONCERNED THAT THE ADVISORY GROUP MAY OVERREACH ITSELF UNLESS THE SECRETARIAT IS ABLE TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS IN THE AREAS SELECTED FOR STUDY. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION TO CST UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT SCME RESOURCES BE DEPLOYED FROM OTHER PARTS OF OVERALL PROGRAM, EG., INNOVATION IN THE SERVICE SECTOR, R & D STATISTICS - TO STRENGTHEN THE OECD/TA PROGRAM. ADDITIONALLY, AS THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE FORTHCOMING SCIENCE MINISTERIAL WILL REVOLVE AROUND THE CENTRAL THEME OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COMPLEX PROBLEMS. US AT THAT MEETING MIGHT UNDERSCORE THE NEED FOR DEVELOPING ACCEPTABLE, OECD-WIDE METHODOLOGIES IN THE TA FIELD TO FACILITATE SUCH MANAGEMENT, NOT OVERLOOKING THE ENVIRONMENT DIMENSION.

8. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE TO ABOVE IN TIME FOR JUNE 2-3 MEETING. TURNER

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## Message Attributes

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